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moraine view

STATE PARK

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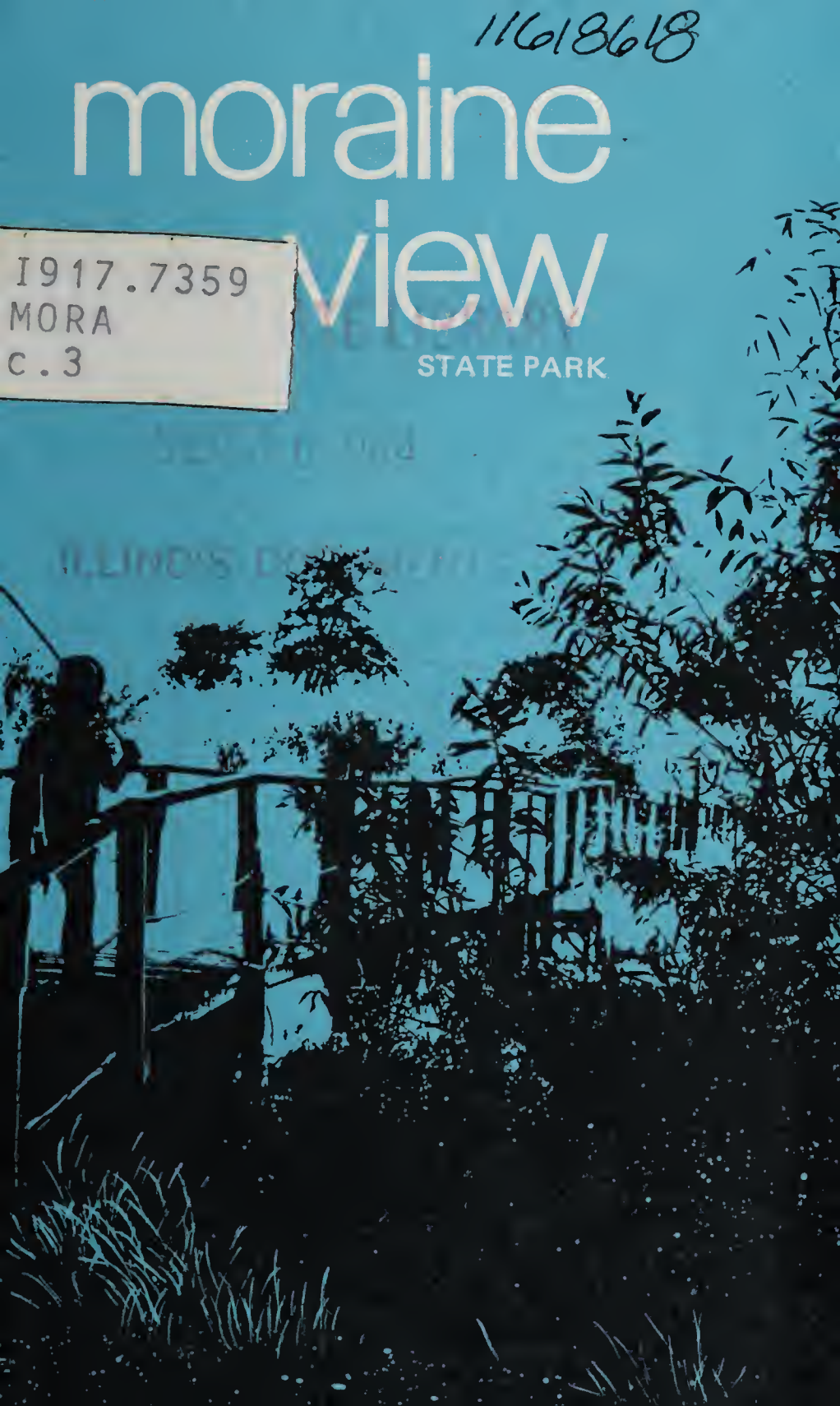

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THE PARK

Moraine View State Park offers the recreational facilities of most major state parks and includes the facilities found in a conservation area. The rolling terrain surrounding the lake, interspersed with clusters of timberland, is the second highest point in McLean County due to its location on the Bloomington Moraine. The park is accessible from U.S. 150 or I-74 to LeRoy, turn north on LeRoy-Lexington blacktop for five miles to park entrance sign or 12 miles east of Bloomington on Route 9 to LeRoy-Lexington blacktop and then south four and one-half miles to park entrance sign.

The State of Illinois originally purchased 760 acres in Dawson Township in 1959 but recent acquisitions have increased the acreage to 1687.

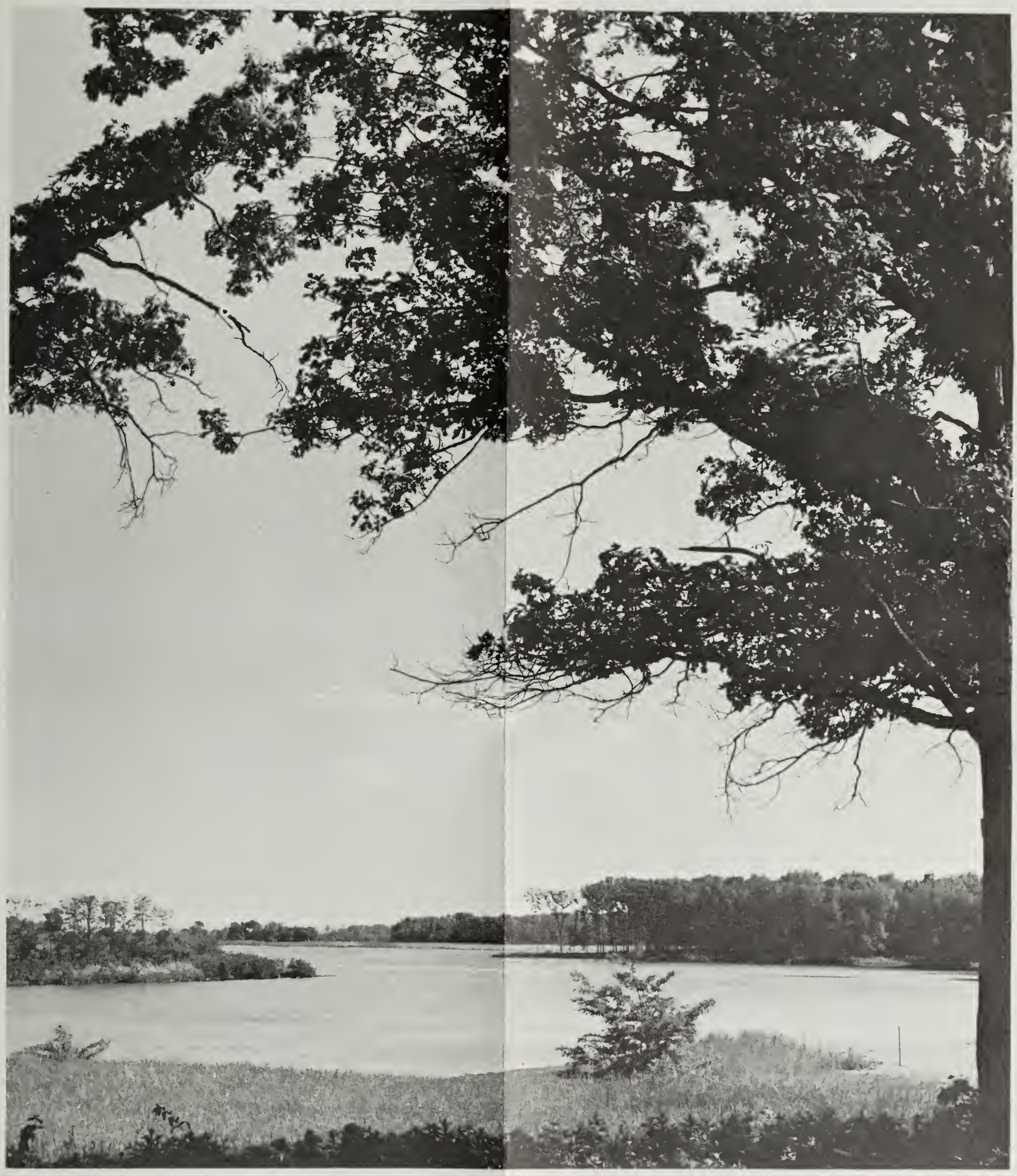
THE LAKE

Moraine View State Park lake is located in the general area of Illinois that is devoid of good lake sites, due to the topography and terrain of a very rich agricultural area. Preliminary surveys for the lake were made in August 1957. Clearing contracts were awarded in September 1960, and dam construction began in July 1962, on the tributary North Fork of Salt Creek between U.S. 150 and Illinois 9.

Dawson Lake, the name given locally to the Moraine View State Park lake possibly because it is in Dawson Township or because the Dawson Families were early settlers in this area, was opened for fishing in 1963. The 158-acre lake has a maximum depth of 27 feet with more than five miles of shoreline.

HISTORY

Indians: When early settlers arrived, they found the Kickapoo and Potawatomi Indian tribes in control of the country. According to the early histories, there was an Indian trail in the area which was the dividing line between the two tribes. After the boundary line was established, the Potawatomi retired to the vicinity of Fox River, while the Kickapoo tribe established



their headquarters on Salt Creek, near where the town of LeRoy now stands, known to the first settlers as "Old Town Timber." The Potawatomi would come up as far as Rook's Creek on their hunting excursions and they frequently camped on the Vermilion River, but the boundary line was respected and the two tribes remained on friendly terms.

On July 30, 1819, the Kickapoo tribe signed a treaty with the white men after the War of 1812. This treaty enabled the Indians to live on the land and take game until white settlers moved in. In 1830 there were 630 Kickapoo Indians living in the area. Then, in 1832 an order came for the Indians to move to Kansas where they were placed on a reservation.

General Terrain: The country as first seen by the early pioneers consisted of gentle rolling prairies with scattered groves of timber chiefly along the streams. These groves were abundant with white oak, red oak, maple, hickory, black walnut, ash, elm, butternut, buckeye, sassafras and a variety of similar timber. These new inhabitants sought the groves for shelter from bleak cold winds of winter and also for fuel, water and shade.

Much of the prairie land was wet and marshy, especially where the surface was only slightly rolling or nearly level. Timberland was considered more desirable than the prairie, as the tough prairie sod was difficult to turn with the primitive implements then in use. The prairie land was drained, however, as farms became more prevalent.

FACILITIES

Picnicking: Ten picnic areas are in shaded spots, with many picnic tables and fireplaces provided. No cooking may be done except on park or camp stoves. Parking lots are conveniently located throughout the area.

Trails: The one-half mile Tanglewood Self-Guiding Nature Trail winds around a lake finger in a wooded area. About midway is a beaver dam and beaver house. Tall Timber, a one and one-half mile backpack camping and hiking trail of moderate terrain, is also available for the hiker and primitive camper. Timber Point Handicapped Trail is one-half mile long. A short loop is also available with slight difficulty.

Fishing and Boating: The lake is stocked with largemouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, bullhead, crappie, channel catfish and northern pike. A boat launch and docks are present for private or rental boats. Motors of 10 horsepower or less are allowed, as well as sailboats.

Hunting: Public hunting is available in season on 1,300 acres of this site. Consult the site superintendent for information concerning shooting time and opening dates for various species.

Winter Sports: Seven miles of cross-country ski trails and 10 miles of snowmobile trails are available when there is a sufficient base of snow. Ice fishing and ice-skating are allowed if the ice is thick enough.

Concession Stand: The stand is near the lake and is open every day throughout the summer. Drinking water is available nearby.

Bridle Paths: Over 10 miles of bridle paths on Timber Line Ridge Trail wind through the park. Horses are not provided.

Camping: A large family camping area has gravel pads, electricity and a sanitary station for trailers. This campground has its own boat launch and docks. A second camp area is for horseback riders only, complete with hitching racks, water and electricity. There are two more camp areas for group camping, and a one and one-half mile backpack camping area for primitive camping.

Field Trials: Bird dog field trials are conducted in the spring and fall by various clubs throughout the state.

Please: The park is for all to enjoy so help keep it clean. All pets must be on a leash no longer than 10 feet. Swimming is not permitted. The southern half of the park closes at 10 p.m.; however, visitors have access to the concession, boat dock area and the main campgrounds located in the northern half.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION. . . .

Groups of 25 or more persons will not be admitted to any state site unless permission from the site superintendent has been obtained to use the facilities. In addition, groups of minors must have adequate supervision and at least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state sites are within easy access of every part of Illinois. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette and Giant City; White Pines Forest has cabins and dining rooms only, and Black Hawk has dining rooms only. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

Most state sites are open year round, except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to facilities is by foot only.

For more details on this site, contact the Site Superintendent, R.R. 2, LeRoy, 61752, phone 309/724-8032. For more information on other recreation areas write Department of Conservation, Land and Historic Sites, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, 62706.

Park Map

Tanglewood Nature Trail

Willow Marsh Parking

County Road

Timberline Ridge Horseback Camping Area

Clinging Vine

Picnic Area

Gander Bay Camping Area

Park Office

Fishing Pier

Superintendent's Residence

Wild Sumac Picnic Area

Camper's Boat Launch

Main Entrance

Pear Grove Parking

Hunters Check Station

Parking

Picnic Area

Honkers Island Picnic Area

Timberline Ridge Horse Trail

Concession

Catfish Bay Boat Launch

Group Camp

Black Locust Picnic Area

Tall Timber Backpack Camping, Hiking Trail and Picnic Area

Timber Point Fishing Access and Handicapped Trail

Basin View Parking

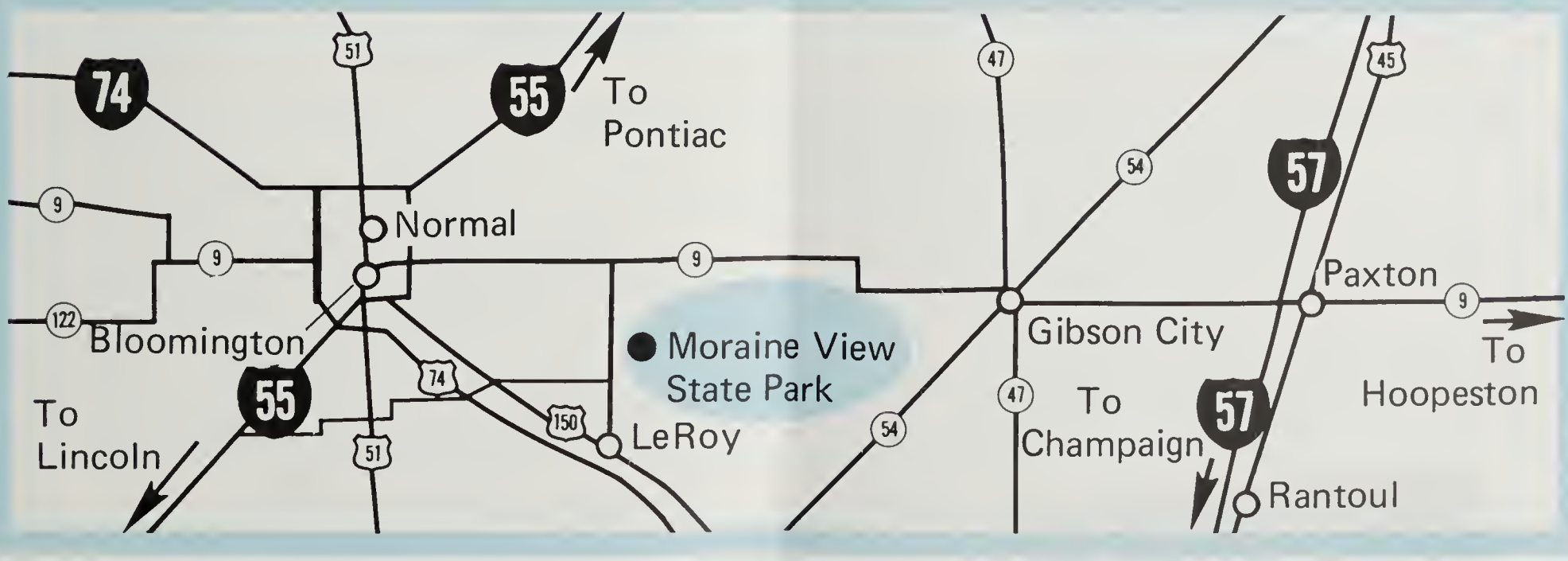
Lonesome Hawthorne Picnic Area

Dam

Ol' Orchard Camp

Lost Pond Parking

Horse Trail



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